

rights and human rights leaders—Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

At ninety years of age, Dr. Height has had a long and distinguished career in the struggles for equality, social justice, and human rights for all peoples, and is today recognized as one of the most important social and civil rights activists of our time.

Born on March 24, 1912, Dorothy Height earned her bachelors and masters degrees from the New York University.

She began her work as a civil rights advocate in the 1930s, then went on to serve as President of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), an organization of 250 local groups and 38 national groups focused on social and economic development, women's issues and children's issues. Under her leadership the NCNW implemented numerous innovative initiatives including: Operation Woman Power to expand business ownership by women and to provide funds for vocational training; leadership training for African-American women in the rural South; the nationwide annual Black Family Reunion to encourage, renew, and celebrate African American and all families; the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement to empower minority women in nontraditional careers; and the Bethune Museum and Archives devoted to the history of African-American women.

Quite notably, Dr. Height was the only female member of the "Big Six" civil rights leaders, which included Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins. Dr. Height was an important confidante and consultant to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on human and civil rights issues. She encouraged President Eisenhower to desegregate America's schools, and urged President Johnson to appoint African American women to high-ranking government positions.

During her life she has also worked tirelessly to educate Americans and those around the world about the realities of AIDS and established NCNW offices in West Africa and South Africa.

Dr. Height is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including: the NAACP's Spingarn Award, the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP for civil rights contributions; (C) the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award, from the National Council of Jewish Women; the Ministerial Interfaith Association Award, for her contributions to interfaith, interracial, and ecumenical movements for over 30 years; the Lovejoy Award, the highest recognition by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, for outstanding contributions to human relations; the Ladies Home Journal Woman of the Year Award, in recognition for her work for human rights; the William L. Dawson Award, presented by the Congressional Black Caucus for decades of public service to people of color and women; the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service, presented by President Reagan; the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal, awarded by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded by President Clinton in 1994 for her lifelong leadership and dedication to civil and human rights issues.

Dr. Dorothy I. Height—a great American hero. Today we thank and honor her, as our lives are all the better for her struggles and her lifelong commitment and leadership in cre-

ating opportunities for Americans, and for all peoples.

FREE NÉSTOR RODRIGUEZ LOBAINA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I rise every week, to speak about the courageous prisoners of conscience in Castro's gulags. Previously, I have informed the Congress about the political prisoners Rafael Ibarra, Raúl Rivero, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leyva, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Jose Luis Garcia Paneque, and Marta Beatriz Roque. Today I rise to speak of Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina.

Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina has been arrested and/or detained over 90 times since 1991, and is currently serving a six-year prison sentence for "disrespect to the figure of the Commander in Chief Fidel Castro" and "public disorder."

Why has Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina been savagely beaten while serving his sentence at the maximum security "Combinado de Guantánamo?" Why was Mr. Rodriguez Lobaina taken to Niva Mountain by Castro's police thugs and mock executed? Why is Mr. Rodriguez Lobaina considered a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International? The answer to all of these questions is simple: Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina is one of the founders and current President of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement is a nongovernmental organization that promotes democracy and human rights for the people of Cuba. These concepts are so antithetical to Castro's tyrannical regime that when Mr. Rodriguez Lobaina worked to promote the ideals of freedom and democracy he was locked away for six years in a maximum security gulag.

Mr. Speaker, think about that, for encouraging people to think about freedom, to think about democracy, Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina has been arrested or detained over 90 times and is currently serving a six-year sentence. Six Years! Mr. Speaker, Six Years! Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina is serving six years because he thinks the people of Cuba should be free.

My colleagues, we must all call for the release of Néstor Rodriguez Lobaina and all political prisoners in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUZANNE INSOOK AHN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I pay tribute to the memory of my dear friend and a remarkable woman from Dallas, Dr. Suzanne Insook Ahn. I would like to extend my greatest sympathy to her family by taking a moment to reflect on Dr. Ahn's rich life.

Dr. Suzanne Insook Ahn was born in Pusan, South Korea and raised in the United States. She was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Ahn trained at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and maintained a successful practice as a neurologist for thirteen years. She was the youngest person, and only the second woman, to serve on the Texas State Medical Board of Examiners in its 100-year history. Dr. Ahn was the co-inventor of 14 U.S. patents and founded the medical division of a start-up technology company.

A recognized civic leader and advocate of women's rights, she founded the Summit, a group of Dallas women in decision-making positions. Dr. Ahn was instrumental in organizing the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the American Medical Women's Association.

Dr. Suzanne Ahn was a strong advocate for Asian Americans. She lectured across the country on civil rights and lobbied vigorously for the rights of Asian American workers at the Wards Cove cannery. Dr. Ahn led a march against Dallas nightclubs that illegally banned Asian Americans. In 2002 she led picketers at a bookstore in Plano that was denying service to Asian Americans. Dr. Ahn was a founder of the Asian American Forum that provides leadership training for Asian Americans in Dallas/Fort Worth.

In 1991, Dr. Ahn worked in the Texas Air Control Board to control air pollution. As she often pointed out, half of all those with lung cancer are non-smokers. Indeed, the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex is plagued by severely poor air quality that will continue to kill some of our best and brightest—such as Dr. Ahn.

Mr. Speaker, we must improve air quality in metropolitan areas across this Country or we will face disastrous consequences both in terms of our health and our economy. In Dr. Ahn's memory, I reaffirm my efforts to promote alternative transportation and cleaner power generation so that future generations will not grow up in a haze that will shorten their lives, happiness, and contributions to our society.

I join the residents of Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex in extending our condolences to her family. A physician, inventor, community leader, and civil rights activist, Dr. Ahn was a remarkable woman who will be deeply missed and never forgotten. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm, her vision, her dedication to equal rights and her many contributions to the State of Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR BALANCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVERTISEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act, a bill to ensure that Direct-To-Consumer (DTC) prescription drug ads provide complete and accurate information about prescription drugs.

The Medicare prescription drug bill passed by the Republicans in the House does nothing to control drug pricing. In fact, their bill explicitly prohibits Medicare from negotiating with

drug manufacturers to get a better deal on prescription drug prices for seniors.

I believe Congress must do something about the high costs of prescription drugs, for Medicare beneficiaries and all Americans. That's why I'm introducing this legislation.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act will empower the FDA to determine whether pharmaceutical companies present information about their products in a fair manner, balancing risks and benefits. Any advertisements found to violate this standard would be denied currently allowed tax deductions.

Under this bill, print ads would be required to display pros and cons in equal typeface and space, and on the same or facing pages. If the advertisements ran onto additional pages, those pages would have to be consecutive with the first pages. In television and radio ads, risk and benefit descriptions would be allotted equal airtime and volume level.

Since the FDA relaxed restrictions on television advertising in 1997, DTC advertising has soared. Drug companies' advertising expenditure doubled between 1998 and 2000, and is expected to reach seven billion dollars annually by 2005.

As a consequence of such large-scale advertising, consumers have been led to demand drugs that may not be medically necessary or appropriate for their conditions. According to the National Institute for Health Care Management, 86% of patients who requested a prescription for Clarion from their doctor received one (this drug is now available over-the-counter). Similarly, a 2000 study showed that nearly half of the increased spending on pharmaceuticals was attributable to the fifty most advertised prescription drugs, and also that DTC advertising has increased the prices of prescriptions.

DTC advertising not only drives up the costs of prescriptions, but also increases demand for more expensive drugs in cases when a cheaper alternative will do. The cost of prescription drugs is heavily impacting our country. We all know the problems facing seniors and their ability to afford their medications. States are finding the costs of providing comprehensive drug benefits so expensive that Illinois has announced that they will contract with a Canadian pharmacy to get a better deal for their state employees. Employers are facing similar dilemmas. Given this cost crisis, we need to take every step we can to reduce increasing drug costs. That's why making sure that advertisements aid consumers in making informed decisions, rather than simply increasing demand for the newest drug, makes so much sense.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act is endorsed by the California Public Employees' Retirement System, which provides health benefits to more than 1.3 million members. They know far too well the difficulties facing consumers and employers due to increasing drug prices. Their President, Sean Harrigan, says, "Representative STARK's bill is the best medicine for reining in the costs of drugs while ensuring consumers get the real truth about the benefits and the risks of direct-to-consumer advertised drugs."

The new guidelines this bill sets forth will help the pharmaceutical industry educate consumers by enabling them to make informed decisions based on a fair and balanced presentation of risks and benefits. Today's DTC

ads simply don't meet that standard. One advertising executive with significant experience with DTC ads said, "we want to identify the emotions we can tap into to get that customer to take the desired course of action." That's not a decision based on facts.

In a survey of 1,872 people who viewed drug advertisements, 70 percent said they had learned little or nothing more about the conditions the drug is supposed to treat, and over half said they learned little or nothing more about the drug being advertised. Very few ads informed viewers of how successful the treatment is, what alternative treatments are available, how long a patient needs to take the drug, or attempt to correct common misconceptions about the disease the drug treats. Predictably, a strong majority of doctors—75 percent—said that the ads caused patients to think that advertised drugs work better than they do.

Physicians themselves have voiced their frustration with the way DTC ads have harmed their ability to provide the best medical care to their patients. In fact, the American Medical Association has asked the FDA to require pharmaceutical companies to include a disclaimer in all ads stating that physicians may suggest other alternative, medically appropriate treatments.

The bill I am introducing today is simple. It would eliminate the tax deduction for ads that do not fairly present the risks and benefits of prescription drugs. Only ads that truly and honestly provide balanced information that enables consumers to make informed, educated decisions would continue to qualify for a business tax deduction.

Since the pharmaceutical industry already argues that their ads educate consumers, they should have nothing to fear by this bill. This bill will provide an incentive for advertising to provide education rather than blatant promotional material that spurs patients to demand drugs that may be medically inappropriate for their condition and drive up costs. This is a bill we should be able to support on a broad bipartisan basis. We should pass it immediately and take a concrete step to reduce prescription drug price increases for America's consumers now. The American public is sick of rhetoric on prescription drug price. They want action. Join me in support of the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the President and House Leadership to work with Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR to craft a comprehensive transportation bill that addresses the needs of our nation. While I will vote for the short-term extension for our transportation program, I do so reluctantly.

We have had months to prepare a good bill that does right for the nation. I believe my dear friends, Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR are headed in the right direction, but, unfortunately, a select few have

held up any attempt at crafting a good bill, bringing us to this impasse.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to reiterate my support for Chairman YOUNG's and Ranking Member OBERSTAR's \$375 billion proposal. In my home state of Michigan, 1 in 5 roads have been rated as being in "poor condition". In Southeast Michigan, Metro Detroit ranks fifth for motorists who pay the most annually in additional vehicle maintenance because of poor road quality. The only way to help alleviate the problems in my state is to ensure that we grow the program so Michigan and all the other donor states receive their fair share of highway dollars. The longer we wait to pass a comprehensive bill the longer it will take to improve our nation's infrastructure.

For some, they will say, DINGELL, it is only six months. But I have been here long enough to know how the cow chews the cabbage, and a delay puts us into an election year. That delay could easily be extended and put our state department's of transportation planning process in serious jeopardy. We cannot continue to operate our government through continuing resolutions. To do so not only puts our infrastructure in jeopardy, but the well being of our nation.

We must craft a comprehensive bill that helps our nation's infrastructure, puts people to work, and gets our economy moving again. Many people understand this, a few do not. It is time the few stop blocking the path to progress, and help kick start our economy with a bill that my Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman and Ranking Member support.

MAY NEWBURGER, AN ICON OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an icon of public service, May W. Newburger, for her exemplary career, dedicated to the people of the Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County and New York State.

May Newburger has had a long and distinguished career, to the great benefit of the people. May spent eight highly productive years, from 1978 to 1986, in the New York State Assembly. She served as Town Councilwoman in North Hempstead from 1991 to 1993, and was the first woman to be elected chief executive of a Nassau County town. Now in her fifth term, she has served as Town Supervisor of North Hempstead since 1993.

As Town Supervisor, May Newburger has been the driving force behind long-term strategic financial planning in North Hempstead, most notably through the Debt Management and Capital Plans. She has already transformed a \$7-million budget deficit into a surplus of \$7.7 million, and through her leadership and foresight, she will have reduced the Town's debt by \$107 million over the next ten years. This planning has helped move the Town from the lowest bond rating in its history to its highest ever.

Mr. Speaker, under May Newburger's dynamic leadership, North Hempstead was named "Town of the Year 1999" by the Long Island Development Corporation, and received